

start from the date at which it arrives in England. The envelope in which the document arrived in England is usually produced to show the date stamp of the arrival of the document in England, but the time necessary for a document to arrive in England from a particular place abroad can usually be estimated within the limits of a day or two.

Under the Finance Acts, 1909 and 1910, stamp duties on conveyances for a consideration of over £500 were doubled. As it was anticipated that this would result in sales of property being split up into separate deeds where possible so as to get away with the smaller stamp duty (under £500), it was provided that to enable anyone to take advantage of the lower rate of stamp duty on conveyances, every conveyance or assignment of property of under £500 in value should have a certificate that the transaction effected by the deed did not form part of a larger transaction or a series of transactions the amount or value or the aggregate amount or value of the consideration of which exceeded £500. In the absence of such a certificate stamp duty at the higher rate is payable, even if the consideration is less than £500.

A contract under seal is liable to a duty of ten shillings. When a contract is under seal with a com-

pany or corporation, it can only be completed by the seal of the company or corporation being affixed.

A company cannot sign its name. The Inland

Revenue authorities treat such a contract as being a contract under seal. The only way to avoid

having to pay los. stamp is for the contract to be signed by some duly authorised agent for and on behalf of the company.

Where a contract is for the grant of a lease, it is